



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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OPERATION PREDATOR ARRESTS SURPASS 5,000 *Oregon accounts for 120 arrests in initiative targeting child sex predators*

PORTLAND, OR – More than one hundred of the 5,000 child sex offenders arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of an ongoing international initiative known as Operation Predator have occurred in Oregon.

Michael J. Garcia, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE, announced today that arrests in the 20-month long effort have surpassed 5,000. Among those individuals arrested here are:

- Josh Bergeman was contacted by ICE-Portland agents and Oregon City Police detectives based on information provided by law enforcement authorities in New Zealand, relayed to the United States via the ICE Attaché' office in Singapore. Agents discovered child pornography on Bergeman's computer and discovered he was in contact with young children at his half sister's unlicensed informal daycare. Further investigation led to Bergeman's confession and conviction of Oregon State charges of Sexual Abuse I and Sodomy I. In December 2004, Bergeman was sentenced to ten years in state prison without parole.
- Diana Tayri Gonzalez-Ortiz of Hillsboro was removed from the United States to Mexico on February 1, 2005, following her conviction for Attempted Rape I and Attempted Sodomy I in Washington County, OR. Gonzalez-Ortiz served a term of eighteen months in the Women's Correctional Center in Salem. ICE investigators discovered that she had entered and lived in the United States illegally and initiated removal proceedings as an aggravated felon.

Operation Predator is a comprehensive initiative aimed at those who prey on and exploit children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable.

"Sexual predators will not go unpunished for their heinous crimes," said Garcia. "Whether the criminal is a U.S. citizen who thinks they can travel overseas to molest children or a pornographer who trades in images of child sexual abuse, or a foreign national who has lost the privilege to remain in the U.S. because of a crime against a child, ICE will identify, arrest, and, where possible, remove them."

Operation Predator evolved out of ICE's mission to find and deport illegal aliens -- particularly those with criminal records, and reflects the agency's traditional public safety mission. Those arrested fall into four general categories:

Foreign National Child Predators: More than 85 percent of the arrests in Operation Predator involve foreign national sex offenders whose crimes make them removable from the United States. To date, more than 2,100 of these predators have been deported.

International Child Sex Tourists: Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE's attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents have made 14 arrests, including the first 12 arrests, under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act.

Human Smuggling & Trafficking of Children: The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and younger.

Internet Child Pornography: Drawing on ICE's cyber crime investigative expertise, ICE is tackling the crimes that cross the nation's virtual borders. One massive investigation has resulted in more than 1,200 arrests worldwide and marks the first time the government has gone after the financial side of child pornography. Moreover, through the National Child Victim Identification System, more than 1,600 pornographic images containing child pornography have been authenticated.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.